

**RADIO ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS
OF THE U.S.S.R. AND PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
V. M. MOLOTOV**

JUNE 22, 1941



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE
MOSCOW 1941**

Citizens of the Soviet Union! The Soviet government and its head, Comrade Stalin, have authorized me to make the following statement:

Today at 4 a.m. without any claims having been presented to the Soviet Union, without any declaration of war, German troops attacked our country, attacked our borders at many points and bombed from their airplanes our cities—Zhitomir, Kiev, Sevastopol, Kaunas and some others, killing and wounding over two hundred persons. There were also enemy air-raids and artillery shelling from Rumanian and Finnish territory.

This unheard-of attack upon our country is perfidy unparalleled in the history of civilized nations. The attack on our country was perpetrated despite the fact that a treaty of non-aggression had been signed between the U.S.S.R. and Germany and that the Soviet government most faithfully abided by all the provisions of this treaty. The attack upon our country was perpetrated despite the fact that during the entire period of operation of this treaty the German government could not find grounds for a single complaint against the U.S.S.R. as regards the observance of the treaty. The entire responsibility for this predatory attack upon the Soviet Union falls fully and completely upon the German fascist rulers.

At 5.30 a.m., that is, after the attack had already been perpetrated, Schulenburg, the German ambassador in Mos-

cow, on behalf of his government made a statement to me as People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs to the effect that the German government has decided to launch a war against the U.S.S.R. in connection with the concentration of Red Army units near the Eastern German frontier.

In reply to this I stated on behalf of the Soviet government that until the very last moment the German government had not presented any claims to the Soviet government, that Germany attacked the U.S.S.R. despite the peaceable position of the Soviet Union, and that for this reason fascist Germany is the aggressor.

On the instructions of the government of the Soviet Union I must also state that at no point had our troops or our air force committed any violation of the frontier and therefore the statement made this morning by the Rumanian radio to the effect that Soviet aircraft allegedly had fired on Rumanian aerodromes is a sheer lie and provocation. Likewise a lie and provocation is the whole declaration made today by Hitler, who is trying belatedly to concoct accusations charging the Soviet Union with failure to observe the Soviet-German pact.

Now that the attack on the Soviet Union has already been committed, the Soviet government has ordered our troops to repulse the predatory assault and to drive the German troops from the territory of our country.

This war has been forced upon us not by the German people, not by the German workers, peasants and intellectuals, whose sufferings we well understand, but by the clique of bloodthirsty fascist rulers of Germany, who have enslaved the French, the Czechs, the Poles, the Serbs, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Greece and other nations.

The government of the Soviet Union expresses its unshakeable confidence that our valiant Army and Navy and the brave falcons of the Soviet Air Force will acquit themselves with honour in performing their duty to the fatherland, to the Soviet people, and will inflict a crushing blow upon the aggressor.

This is not the first time that our people has had to deal with the attack of an arrogant foe. At the time of Napoleon's invasion of Russia our people's reply was a patriotic war and Napoleon suffered defeat and met his doom. It will be the same with Hitler, who in his arrogance has proclaimed a new crusade against our country. The Red Army and our whole people will again wage a victorious patriotic war for our country, for honour, for liberty.

The government of the Soviet Union expresses its firm conviction that the whole population of our country, all the workers, peasants and intellectuals, men and women, will conscientiously perform their duties and do their work. Our entire people must now stand solid and united as never before. Each one of us must demand of himself and of others a discipline, organization and self-denial worthy of real Soviet patriots, in order to provide for all the needs of the Red Army, Navy and Air Force, to ensure victory over the enemy.

The government calls upon you, citizens of the Soviet Union, to rally still more closely around our glorious Bolshevik Party, around our Soviet government, around our great leader, Comrade Stalin.

Ours is a righteous cause. The enemy will be routed. Victory will be ours.